

Friday, April 11, 1958

Local Doctors Use Windpipe To Fix Artery

ROCHESTER, April 10 (AP) — The possible use of windpipes to replace diseased or injured blood vessels leading from the heart was outlined here today.

Two doctors said in a report that windpipe grafts already have been performed on 23 dogs and that the animals are living normal, healthy lives.

Using windpipes — tracheae — instead of such material as nylon tubing is a completely new approach to the repair of faulty aortas, the doctors said. The aorta is the main artery that carries blood from the heart for distribution through the body by branch arteries.

The doctors are Charles E. Wiles and Edward H. Kopf of the Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo.

They announced that if the results of their experiments with dogs hold up, the technique will be applied to humans.

Using windpipes to repair aortas would have a number of advantages, they said. In humans the trachea is the same size as the aorta, is tough, flexible, disease-resistant and grafts easily.

If continued experiments are successful, the doctors said, it may be possible to set up trachea banks, similar to eye and bone banks.

Studies are underway now, to determine how long transplanted windpipes remain in good condition as blood vessels.

The report was delivered to a joint, one-day meeting of the Western New York Heart Assn. and the Cardiology Section of Canada's Ontario Medical Assn.

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